

OUR HERITAGE

ANCIENT DOCUMENTS COMMITTEE

The Ancient Documents Committee assisted Ralph Fuller, new president of the Stow Historical Society, in assembling a Stow Time Capsule to mark the 50th anniversary of the Society. The stainless steel box, to be opened on the Society's 100th anniversary in 2061, contains books, newspapers, maps, children's essays and other artifacts of Stow history. It is now housed in the Randall Library Museum,

Replicas of Colonial flags, donated several years ago by Bobbie Hill, have been placed in the Whitney Room in the Town Building. Sixteen flags tracing the history of the country are on display and are available on loan to school and scout groups. The flags were sewn by Girl Scout Cadette Troop 864 for the 1976 celebration of the America's 200th birthday and have been used for other town celebrations. Mrs. Hill was the troop leader.

For the third year, third graders from Pompositticut School met in June at Town Hall for a live lesson on Stow history sponsored jointly by Ancient Documents and the Stow Historical Society. A visual presentation by Ralph Fuller and demonstrations of artifacts from the Town Vault were featured.

Committee members continued work on photographs, maps, and special collections. Liz Moseley continued work on the organization of the Randall Library Museum, and Dorothy Spaulding continued to computerize cemetery records. Dorothy MacDonald, genealogist, received requests for information on Noah Gates and Mary Conant, Sarah Holman and Samuel Conant, John and Thomas Law, Miles Beaumont family, M.P. Lewis Store and Philip Norman Glazier, Stow historian.

Thanks go to Bob McDonald who computerized a list of 141 deeds in the town collection and identified Indian artifacts. The committee meets the first and third Fridays, October to June, at the Town Building. New members are welcome.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Gray
Lew Halprin
Linda Hathaway
Barbara Sipler, Chair
Robert Walrath

William Byron, Associate
Ralph Fuller, Associate
Elizabeth Moseley, Associate
Dorothy Spaulding, Associate
Dorothy MacDonald, Genealogist

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Stow's Historical Commission is dedicated to the preservation and protection of Stow's historical and archaeological resources. This year we have been discussing ways and means of increasing the Town's knowledge and awareness of the importance of preserving the wonderful

history we have. As part of that effort the commission, in conjunction with the Historical Society, conducted a tour of the Lower Village Cemetery narrated by Francis (Skip) Warren. The commission also conducted a tour of the Pine Point Road area of Lake Boon conducted by Lewis Halprin. We are also renewing a program for historic plaques and have just installed our first new plaque.

The Public Archaeology Survey Team is still working on the inventory of Stow properties. We have reviewed preliminary drafts of forms and they are now working on individual properties.

During the year discussion continued about the Larsen Apple Barn. A bid was put out for possible buyers but no one came forth to buy and move it so the issue has been put to rest.

Randall Library has agreed to accept the Stow Musket for display when their remodeling is complete.

This year, West School Summer Programs were conducted under the leadership of Ralph Fuller, Karen Gray and Linda Stokes. The four events were all well attended and were as follows: Photographic History of Stow, Oral History, Laura Ingalls Wilder and Skill of Our Town. The committee is already working on programs for next summer. These programs were made possible through a grant from the Stow Cultural Council. Eagle Scout Jack Slattery made an excellent video of life in a one-room schoolhouse and it is a wonderful addition to the town's educational collection.

Community Preservation Funds are being used to repair historical gravestones in the Lower Village Cemetery.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Cutler
Daisy Dearborn
Karen Gray

Leslie Kriebel
Dorothy Spaulding Chair
Lewis Halprin, Treasurer and Associate